



**PERMANENT MISSION
OF THE PRINCIPALITY OF LIECHTENSTEIN
TO THE UNITED NATIONS
NEW YORK**

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CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

AGENDA ITEM 63 – USE OF THE VETO

DEBATE - VETO INITIATIVE – “THE SITUATION IN THE MIDDLE EAST, INCLUDING THE PALESTINIAN QUESTION”

STATEMENT BY MYRIAM OEHRI, CHARGÉE D’AFFAIRES A.I.

DEPUTY PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE PRINCIPALITY OF LIECHTENSTEIN TO THE UNITED NATIONS

Mr. President,

Thank you for convening today’s meeting in accordance with General Assembly resolution 76/262, which for the first time is pursuant to a veto cast on an amendment to a draft resolution presented to the Security Council. Every veto, including on amendments, falls within the scope of 76/262 and is accordingly subject to discussion by the UN membership as a whole. We thank the Security Council for producing a Special Report in a timely and efficient manner, and we request the President of the General Assembly to issue a summary of today’s debate, as done in the previous meetings resulting from the Veto Initiative. We acknowledge the participation of the veto casting State in this debate.

The vetoed amendment is in line with the content of previous resolutions adopted by the General Assembly in Emergency Special Session by an overwhelming majority, including the majority of Security Council members. We encourage Council members to bear in mind the will of the UN membership as a whole, including where expressed through resolutions, and note that in carrying out its duties, the Security Council acts on behalf of the entire membership.

At the same time, we note that the vetoed amendment was only brought to the Council at the last minute and in a situation where the resolution as a whole reflected delicate and fragile concessions amongst Security Council members after lengthy and arduous consultations, undertaken with a view to enabling the Council to carry out its duties in accordance with the UN Charter. Council members should aspire to the most transparent and accountable working methods at all times, including whenever possible by presenting amendments with sufficient time for consultations.

Mr. President,

While we are grateful to see the Security Council ultimately adopt Resolution 2720, we regret that the Council has not been able to call for the urgent suspension of hostilities, let alone an immediate humanitarian ceasefire as demanded by this Assembly last month as well as by relevant humanitarian organizations. A humanitarian ceasefire remains essential for the protection of civilians, which must be our highest priority. It is the most important step towards ensuring full, immediate, safe, unhindered and sustained humanitarian access, including by fulfilling the Council's demand in Resolution 2720 that the parties to the conflict allow and facilitate the use of all available routes to and throughout the entire Gaza Strip. It will also be vital to enable the new mechanism the Council has created to accelerate the provision of humanitarian relief consignments as well as to enable the release of all hostages. Every day that goes by in the absence of the suspension of hostilities causes more suffering and devastation.

Mr. President,

In closing, Liechtenstein reiterates that the only sustainable solution to the conflict will come through diplomatic means. The inalienable rights of both Israeli and Palestinian peoples can only be ensured by upholding the right to self-determination, expressed through a two-State solution.

I thank you.